

JORDAN TIMES

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Concussion statesmanship

The administration of President Carter is to be commended in principle for its decision to withhold the sale of the CBU-72 concussion bombs to Israel, but we in the Middle East should not confuse principles of broad American policy with specific turns in American policy-making in the Middle East. That is, the decision to deny Israel the CBU-72 bombs, from the point of view of Middle East peace prospects, is neither important nor even symbolic of new American policies vis-a-vis arms sales to Israel. A closer look at the military and aid relationship between the U.S. and Israel shows that nothing has really changed. In fact, it has intensified.

The decision to withhold the CBU-72 bomb from Israel was not the result of a reassessment of American-Israeli ties, but was rather the result of a broad American policy decision to reduce the proliferation of arms particularly the more sophisticated arms in the American arsenal. The same rationale lay behind the Carter administration decision to veto the sale to Ecuador of Israeli-made but American-powered Kfir fighter jets.

In the case of the CBU-72 bombs, the Americans and Israelis have already made it clear that other American bombs will be supplied that can do the same destructive job as the concussion bombs. In the Kfir jet sale issue, the Americans have agreed to give Israel another \$285 million in economic assistance in the 1978 aid package, to make up for the loss in revenues that the Kfir sales would have brought in. And while the concussion bomb sale has been cancelled, the U.S. has agreed to sell Israel a large number of M-60 tanks and 155mm howitzers.

So the basic principle of an open pipeline of military and economic aid from Washington to Tel Aviv has not been changed. In fact, it has been made worse by the American move to supply additional compensatory economic aid to offset the Israeli loss of revenues from the Kfir sale to Ecuador.

This is not a process of great statesmanship.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Two of the Jordanian dailies commented in their Friday editorials on His Majesty King Hussein's interview with the Lebanese weekly magazine Al-Hayat, in which he warned the Arabs not to slacken their preparation, and mentioned that if the revenues from the oil price increases recently approved were allocated to the confrontation states, these would solve their economic problems and enable them to face Israel.

AL DUSTOUR, under the heading "Arab oil countries", says that it is high time that the Arab oil countries realised that the financial support they are providing to confrontation states is just a symbolic gesture and is far from sufficient to help them solve their internal economic problems and face external pressures.

The Arabs will always remain incapable of presenting a strong stand if the confrontation states remain weak, and their weakness will surely be reflected at the Geneva conference and in any other peace efforts undertaken to solve the Middle East conflict.

What is important, therefore, is not for the Arabs to attend Geneva, but that they should be able to repulse any danger which they may face.

The oil weapon will be useless without the existence of the necessary force to protect its source. This task falls on the states facing the enemy.

Financial support, therefore, is neither a service or a grant to be given by the Arab oil countries, but a question of duty and responsibility towards the joint Arab future.

What loss would be suffered by those countries if, instead of placing their surplus oil money in foreign banks, they were to use it to help and strengthen the confrontation states, the paper asks?

Does the world believe the seriousness of our desire to recover our usurped rights, when confrontation states struggle against economic problems and Arab oil countries

just look on -- with their money piled up in banks?

AL SHA'B, under the heading "King Hussein sounds the alarm", says that His Majesty's warning to the Arabs to prepare to face the various eventualities of the coming stage comes at a propitious time, notably because the Arabs are now confronted with an international peace offensive, which carries with it many dangers.

One of these dangers resides in the fact that we might be tempted to relax our efforts and wait for peace to fall on us -- either through the Geneva conference or any other means originating outside the Arab world, the paper says.

We make such gloomy statements because all indicators, as mentioned by His Majesty, show Israel's reluctance to seek peace. It continues to confiscate Arab lands and to establish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Another indicator is that the Israeli leadership is not that strong and does not have the courage to take any positive step towards peace.

Looking at the Arab side, His Majesty's call on all Arab countries, and in particular Arab oil countries, to assume their responsibilities becomes important. These countries should help the confrontation states to face the international peace offensive and Israeli military preparations. The steadfastness of these states will be an Arab victory, the paper says.

Arab countries should provide the confrontation states not only with a strength equal to that of their enemy, but with a far greater one, which will enable them to outweigh him at all times.

His Majesty warns the Arabs not to be overoptimistic about the results of the international peace offensive, as the international community was the one responsible for the loss of our rights in Palestine in the past, and is the one which is still silent on this loss at the present time, the paper concludes.



Yen

Jordanian economist suggests need for national policy on consumption

(Continued from page 1)

to higher prices for imported goods -- in other words imported inflation.

Dr. Hourani suggests that some sort of policy to regulate imports of consumer products could help reverse this process, slow down the rate of inflation, encourage citizens to save more and thus give a major boost to the country's ability to draw on domestic capital raised through private savings in commercial banks or state-run credit institutions such as the Housing Bank or the post office savings fund.

He says that the state has looked into how it can reduce the financial toll that inflation takes from the middle and lower class citizen, and it has tried to initiate such projects as housing schemes for employees and the new state-run commodity shops that will sell goods at subsidised prices. But he thinks that this can only be considered a short-term measure, and longer term policies are required.

"There is a clear and essential link between domestic savings and consumption," he

says, and the tendency to spend large amounts of money on non-essential and expensive imported consumer products must hurt the state's efforts to direct money into productive sectors of the economy. He suggests that should there be any disruption of Jordan's ability to receive international grants and loans, "the country would face a serious situation if it could not depend on local resources."

He points out that Jordan's proven ability to attract international financial support is a sign of fundamental confidence in the stability and economic prospects of the country. But, he says, Jordan is at the stage in its development where it has to pay special attention to the growth of its productive sectors, such as manufacturing, industry and agriculture, to ensure what he calls "real, actual and physical production". He says it is unusual and "unhealthy" for small developing country like Jordan to have a large services sector that dominates the economy, and the fact worries the government because most service sector industries, such as tourism, transportation or commerce, can be affected or disrupted by external factors beyond the control of Jordan.

Dr. Hourani notes that the state's fundamental approach to joint development responsibility by the private and public sectors is sound and highly effective. But he is critical of some of the ways in which the state has tried to intervene in the free market without fully bringing about the objectives it had in mind.

He specifically mentions two examples of what he says is a kind of "antagonism" of the private sector created by the government's intervention. In one instance, the state decided to buy fertiliser from Kuwait to distribute to farmers at a subsidised price 20 per cent lower than the free market price, which Dr. Hourani calls a "logical" move in principle because it helps the farmers. But he says that the savings were brought about simply by tariff exemptions on the imported fertiliser, which was bought too late in the season to be of use that year, and had to be held over one year. The result was that private fertiliser sellers who had large stocks on hand were unable to sell their usual quantities, and thus the state's move may have helped

some farmers but it also hurt private businessmen.

The lesson from this, Dr. Hourani suggests, is that the state's good intentions to help farmers resulted in a job badly done. It would have been more productive all around for the state to work with the farmers in providing cheaper fertilisers to farmers, instead of acting as it did in a manner that proved inefficient and which caused disruptions in the local fertiliser market.

"I think this shows us that we need studies of the real costs in the bread market, to see the feasibility of this sector, instead of only imposing price controls in a manner that

has antagonised the bakers and made the situation worse than it is. The private sector, Jordan has responded well to the government's all development objectives. I think we have 'worked' bumpy marriage of the state and public sectors in the government has not and emphasised its commitment to the principles of free initiative and private enterprise, and the state's development has been smart one for a country ours. But we have some, such as agriculture, where the state's intervention in the market, with the helping the consumer farmer, has disrupted the market and perhaps caused resentment among the companies. What we maintain in Jordan is a general, between the state and public sectors, not hampered by bureaucratic red tape and who are efficient and experienced. This kind of intervention would help the farmer or the businessman."

Another example Dr. Hourani mentions is the state move to put a price ceiling on bread (55 fils per kilo). He suggests that while the government can control the price of bread, it cannot also control its quality and availability. Thus the price ceiling on bread has resulted in lower quality bread, disruptions in supply, long lines at bakeries and a general deterioration in the bread sector.

"I think this shows us that we need studies of the real costs in the bread market, to see the feasibility of this sector, instead of only imposing price controls in a manner that

NEWS FOCUS

War in Southern Africa seems inevitable as peace moves free

By June Goodwin

The Christian Science Monitor News Service

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -- Southern Africa is pulling back into separate black and white strategy sessions -- apparently to prepare for war.

Both sides feel that after the failure of the Geneva conference on Rhodesia there is no other alternative.

Southern Africa's two top white leaders, John Vorster and Ian Smith -- Prime Ministers of South Africa and Rhodesia respectively -- conferred in Cape Town. But this time Mr. Vorster's role towards Mr. Smith is quite different from what it was when the two men met last autumn.

Then Mr. Vorster did what the United States hoped he would: Put pressure on Mr. Smith to agree to discuss with black Rhodesian nationalists leaders a transfer to black majority rule within two years.

Now Mr. Vorster apparently sees his only option as backing Mr. Smith in the latter's refusal to go any further in his discussions with the nationalists -- and more particularly with Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe of the Patriotic Front, who were at the Geneva conference.

Both the U.S. and British governments believe there is no likelihood of a durable settlement in Rhodesia unless Mr. Smith reverses himself and agrees to resume talks with Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Mugabe. This

is because (as the U.S. and British governments see it) only they can commit the black guerrilla movement to a ceasefire and support of any eventual agreed settlement.

But Mr. Vorster is inclined to see Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Mugabe in the same light as Mr. Smith does -- as "Marxist-dominated" and ultimately responsive to the Soviet Union.

Consequently Mr. Vorster would rather preserve the status quo in Rhodesia -- which has a common border with South Africa -- than hasten the day when Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Mugabe come to power there.

This (in South African thinking) at least would give the South African government time to tackle its own internal problems.

On the black side in the Rhodesian struggle, recruiting among Africans has intensified -- with Rhodesian school children going across the border into Botswana and with an enlistment drive in South Africa that has netted gardeners and other migrant workers for Mr. Nkomo's fighting faction.

There also are reports of a continuing exodus of South African youths into Swaziland and Botswana, some presumably for guerrilla training.

As black Africans see it, the U.S. is not going to do much for either side, black or white, in the deepening confrontation. This is thought to be one of the reasons why the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Andrew Young, was given only a measured welcome in his meetings

recently with black African leaders in Tanzania. These leaders do not expect the Carter administration to put the pressure on South Africa that would like.

They were aware for a while that Mr. Young's state (in response to a question on Marxist governments) the U.S. would trade with country carried with it the location that the U.S. continue to trade with Africa.

South Africa may be to buy time by supporting whites in Rhodesia for 10 years, so Mr. Vorster's Nationalist Party can their internal set-up. There is plenty of along this line among the Afrikaners, the buttress of the Nationalist Party.

One idea being mentioned least among white business is a super cabinet that would co-opt blacks and coloreds (a mixed race) to share over a South African of nation.

The theory is that an autocracy of fall races whites ascending, the could gradually change.

The major factor at any government strategy state of the ailing South can economy. At some businessmen argue, South Africa is going to have to jobs for increasing number unemployed.

If this not done, have a French Revolution on prominent business "the hungry will riot as over."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

| Channel 3 & 6 | 9:20 Reportage |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 6:00 Quran | |
| 6:05 Cartoons | |
| 6:30 English by television | |
| 7:00 Time to remember | |
| 8:00 News in Arabic | |
| | Channel 6 |
| | 7:30 News in Hebrew |
| | 7:45 Varieties |
| | 8:30 Get some in |
| | 9:10 Saturday variety show |
| | 10:00 News in English |
| | 10:15 Movie of the week |
| Channel 3 | |
| 7:30 Family programme | |
| 8:30 Arabic series | |

RADIO JORDAN

| (On 856 KHZ) | 14:10 Radio magazine |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 7:00 Morning melodies | 14:30 Good vibrations |
| 7:30 News | 15:00 Concert hour |
| 7:40 News reports | 16:00 Old favourites |
| 8:00 Sign off | 18:30 Easy listening |
| 10:00 Listeners choice | 17:00 Jordan weekly |
| 11:00 My kind of music | 17:30 Pop session |
| 11:30 Catch the words | 18:00 News summary |
| 11:45 Arab scientists | 18:05 15 weekly |
| 12:00 Pop session | 18:15 Music |
| 13:00 News summary | 18:30 Varieties |
| 13:05 Pop session | 19:00 News |
| 14:00 News | 19:10 Music |

EMERGENCIES

| Doctors: | City (23319) |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Amman: | Irbid: |
| Khader Azzam (39229) | Hadiha |
| Irbid: | Zarga: |
| Adnan Nasser (2415) | Sa'adeh |
| Zarga: | Jaber Ibn Hayan |
| Mahmoud Al Jamal (82742) | |
| Pharmacies: | Taxis: |
| Amman: | Neel (76061) |
| Jofeh (77444) | Tareq (23024) |
| Jerusalem (21370) | Ahram (63911) |
| College (25010) | Jerusalem (39655) |

AMMAN AIRPORT

| Arrivals: | 8:00 Beirut |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 7:55 Cairo (EA) | 8:00 Agaba |
| 8:20 Dubai, (Alitalia) | 8:00 Tref, Abadan, Hael, Jeddah (SDI) |
| 8:25 Muscat, Doha | |
| 8:25 Kuwait | 8:45 Beirut (MEA) |
| 8:45 Karachi, Dubai | 8:45 Cairo (EA) |
| 8:45 Tehran | 9:05 Rome (Alitalia) |
| 8:50 Agaba | 11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam |
| 10:30 Beirut | |
| 11:35 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI) | 11:15 Damascus, Aleppo |
| 16:30 Aleppo, Damascus | 11:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen |
| 17:00 Cairo | 12:00 London |
| 19:40 Beirut (MEA) | 12:30 Cairo |
| 19:50 London (BA) | 12:30 Rome, Paris |
| | 13:30 Jeddah (SDI) |
| | 18:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai |
| | 20:35 Rawalpindi (BA) |
| Departures: | |
| 6:10 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa) | |

BBC RADIO

| GMT | 13:00 News; Commentary |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 05:00 News; Press Review | 13:15 Business and Industry |
| 05:15 Letterbox | 13:30 An Anthology of British |
| 05:20 Music from Scotland | Choirs |
| 05:45 The World Today | 14:00 News |
| 06:00 News; Press Review | 14:09 Book Choice |
| 06:30 Boh Holness Requests | 14:15 Strike up the Band |
| 07:00 News | 14:30 Terry Wogan's LP Show-case |
| 07:15 From the Weeklies | |
| 07:20 Music from Scotland | 15:00 Radio Newsreel |
| 07:45 Letter from London | 15:15 Saturday Special |
| 07:55 A Musical Dictionary | 16:00 News; Commentary |
| 08:00 News; Reflections | 16:15 Saturday Special |
| 08:15 Europa | 17:00 News Summary |
| 08:30 Doritay Pepe | 17:02 Saturday Special |
| 09:00 News; Press Review | 17:45 Sports Round-up |
| 09:15 The World Today | 18:00 News |
| 09:30 Financial News | 18:15 Radio Newsreel |
| 09:45 Come to the Operetta | 18:30 Theatre of the Air |
| 10:15 Scotland 77 | 19:30 Doritay Pepe |
| 10:30 Matthew on Music | |
| 11:00 News | 20:00 News; Commentary |
| 11:15 Europa | 20:30 Just a Minute |
| 11:30 Lord Peter Wimsey | 21:00 Money, Money, Money |
| Clouds of Witness | 21:15 Command Performance |
| 12:00 Radio Newsreel | 21:40 Books and Writers |
| 12:15 Take It or Leave It | 22:00 News |
| 12:45 Sports Round-up | 22:09 Music Now |
| | 22:45 The Week in Wales |
| | 23:00 News; Commentary |

VOICE OF AMERICA

| GMT | 03:00 The Breakfast Show | Stories, News |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| | to on the hour and 28 min. | ry. |
| 06:30 after each hour. | | 18:30 Country Music |
| 17:00 News | | 19:00 News and Topics |
| 17:15 This Week | | 19:15 Letters from Lis |
| 17:30 Press Conference USA | | 19:30 New York, New |
| 18:00 Special English: News/ Words and their | | 20:00 Special English: Words and their |
| Stories. Feature: Short | | 20:15 Music USA (Jazz) |
| | | 21:00 News. |

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| Ambulance (government) | Tel. 75111 |
|---|------------|
| Civil defence rescue | " 24381 |
| Fire headquarters | " 22090 |
| First aid, fire, police | " 19 |
| Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) | " 30381 |
| Municipal water service (emergency) | " 37111 |
| Police headquarters | " 38141 |
| Najdah, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help | " 21111 |
| Cultural Centres | |
| American Centre (USIS) | Tel. 41520 |
| British Council | " 36167 |
| French Cultural Centre | " 37009 |
| Goethe Institute | " 41983 |
| Soviet Cultural Centre | " 44303 |
| Amman Municipal Library | " 36111 |

محور الصحافة

Due in Amman tomorrow

de Guiringaud: 40 years oves in the diplomatic trail

French Embassy Press
and Information Service.

de Guiringaud was ap-
pointed Minister of Foreign Affairs
in the government of Ra-
nd Barre on Aug. 27, 1976.

de Guiringaud, who is
62, was born on Oct. 12,
in Limoges, France. He
has degrees in law and lib-
eral arts and is a graduate of
the School of Political Science.



de Guiringaud: Career
diplomat.

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pointed Minister of Foreign Affairs
in the government of Ra-
nd Barre on Aug. 27, 1976.

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pointed Minister of Foreign Affairs
in the government of Ra-
nd Barre on Aug. 27, 1976.

After the war M. de Guir-
gaud was named First Sec-
retary at the Embassy in London
and in 1949 Director of Pol-
itical Affairs at the Office of
the High Commissioner of the
French Republic in Germany.

He was subsequently Consul
General in San Francisco (1952-
1955), Deputy Permanent Rep-
resentative of France to the
United Nations (1955-1957) and
Ambassador to Ghana (1957);
he was in charge of Moroccan
and Tunisian affairs at the Min-
istry of Foreign Affairs in 1960
and Deputy High Representative
of France to Algeria in Ju-
ly 1962.

Between 1964 and 1965 M.
de Guiringaud was Inspector
General of Diplomatic and Con-
sular Posts. The following year
he was named Ambassador to
Japan, where he remained until
his appointment in 1972 as Per-
manent Representative of France
to the United Nations. In this
capacity he was asked by the
president of the republic to
take charge of the preparation
of the Conference on Interna-
tional Economic Cooperation
in April and October of 1975 he
was technical chairman of the
preparatory meetings for this
conference.

Louis de Guiringaud was ra-
ised to the honorary rank of
Ambassador of France on Ap-
ril 16, 1975. He is a Grand Of-
ficer of the Legion of Honour
(military) and holds the Croix
de Guerre (1939-1945).

Jordan, Syrian traffic c'ttee

to meet Feb. '28

DAMASCUS (JNA). — The Joint
Syrian-Jordanian Committee
for the Unification of Overland
Traffic and Transportation
Laws in the two countries will
meet in Amman Feb. 28 to con-
sider work on a unified traffic
law.

The Syrian side will be head-
ed by Director of Public Rela-
tions at the Ministry of Trans-
port Omar Al Shorabji, and re-
presentatives from the Minis-
tries of Transport and Interior
and the union of transport em-
ployees.

Jordan's delegation to the
meeting is yet to be announced.



Soviet envoy Mikhail Sytenko (left) is seen off at Amman airport Friday by Acting Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Zaki Al Qassas. See story page 1. (JNA photo).

Satellite will beam to remote Arab areas Cairo telecomms meet decides

AMMAN (JNA). — Executive
steps have been taken to start
a project whereby a satellite
will be used to transmit tele-
vision programmes to the re-
mote parts of the Arab World,
stated Jordan's Minister of Com-
munications Abdul Ra'ouf Al
Rawabdeh on his return Friday
from a three-day meeting in
Cairo.

Mr. Al Rawabdeh, who pre-
sided over the general assem-
bly of the Arab Institute for Space
Communications, said the
conference was successful. The
satellite, he added, will trans-
mit direct telephone, telex and
cable messages to the partici-
pating countries through in-
expensive ground stations located
all over the Arab World.

The satellite will also trans-
mit colour television pro-
grammes, beaming cultural, edu-
cational, scientific, health and
social programmes designed to
reach the remotest parts of the
Arab World, which cannot be
reached by conventional means.

Mr. Al Rawabdeh said that
during the Cairo meeting, four
member-states were elected to
the Board of Directors. Jordan
obtained the majority of votes,
followed by Tunisia, Oman and
Iraq. Thus the board will be
composed of Saudi Arabia, Li-
bya, Kuwait and the United
Arab Emirates as permanent
members; and Jordan, Iraq,
Oman and Tunisia as elected
members.

The under secretary of the
Saudi Communications Ministry
was elected chairman of the

board of Directors and the Di-
rector General of Jordan's Tel-
ecomunications Institution,
Mr. Shahid Ismail, as Vice Ch-
airman.



Minister Al Rawabdeh: Im-
portance of satellite links.

Jordan, Egypt to boost trade by 25%

CAIRO (JNA). — A new trade
protocol was signed here Thurs-
day between Jordan and Egypt
boosting trade exchange by 25
million to a total of 215 million
annually.

Dr. Najmeddin Dajani, Jordan's
Minister of Industry and
Commerce, described talks be-
held with his Egyptian counter-
part, Zakaria Abdul Fattah, on
amending the previous accord
as "fruitful and successful".

Dr. Dajani indicated that Jordan
will export to Egypt a num-
ber of manufactured commodi-
ties including wool and cotton
fabrics, liquid batteries, broad-
cloth, blankets, lead matter and
plastic produce. In return Jordan
will import Egyptian rice,

AMMAN (JNA). — A visiting
World Bank delegation Friday
paid a visit to the site of the
potash project on the southeast-
ern shores of the Dead Sea.

Its members were accom-
panied by Director General of
the Arab Potash Company Ali
Khasawneh and other com-
pany officials.

Mr. Khasawneh explained
the various stages of the potash
project and the working pro-
gramme for its implementation.
He stated that they were try-
ing to bring the production date
forward by two years. The pro-
gramme includes the building
of a housing city for the pro-
ject's employees, the preparation
of studies and plans for setting
up the potash refinery plants
and the purchase of machinery
and equipment.

The World Bank delegation
made a tour of the project's
site and was briefed on pro-

gress already made on the pro-
ject's first stage. They exam-
ined a dam being constructed
for use as a breakwater to ex-
tract potash compounds. They
also looked at a potash exper-
imental station for analysing
samples of the Dead Sea brine
to determine the location of
potash, as well as a number
of other mineral ores.

The cost of the first stage of
the project is estimated at \$10
million, of which the United
States Agency for International
Development (USAID) will con-
tribute \$6 million, the Jordan-

ian Government \$3 million and
the World Bank \$1 million.

The first stage should be com-
plete this autumn, and pro-
duction should start early in
1982 with an estimated capac-
ity of one million tonnes of
potash, per year.

The World Bank delegation
also visited the project site at
Ghor Al Safi, south of the Dead
Sea.

The delegation is in Amman
on a four-day official visit to
determine the bank's contribu-
tion to the second stage of the
project.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official ex-
change rates in effect at the
start of today's business day,
as set by the Central Bank of
Jordan.

The first column is how much
you would receive in Jordan-
ian fils for selling a unit of
the foreign currency, while the
second column denotes how
much it would cost you to buy
a unit of the foreign currency:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|
| U.K. sterling | 569.0 | 575.0 |
| U.S. dollar | 332.0 | 334.0 |
| German mark | 138.8 | 139.2 |
| French franc | 67.0 | 67.3 |
| Swiss franc | 132.5 | 132.9 |
| Italian lira (for every 100) | 37.7 | 37.9 |
| Saudi riyal | 94.6 | 95.0 |
| Lebanese pound | 108.7 | 109.8 |
| Syrian pound | 82.0 | 82.3 |
| Iraqi dinar | 942.0 | 950.0 |
| Kuwaiti dinar | 1.152 | 1.160 |
| Egyptian pound | 465.0 | 475.0 |
| Libyan dinar | 785.0 | 795.0 |
| UAE dirham | 85.2 | 86.0 |

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AMMAN,
KING FESAL STREET
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Tel: 33205 - 36520 - Telex: 1443

KING HUSSEIN'S

JUBILEE EMBLEM

SELECTED

AMMAN (JNA). — The higher
committee entrusted with the
preparations for His Majesty
King Hussein's silver jubilee
met here Friday and chose as
the jubilee's emblem a design
by Mr. Mohammad Al Zu'bi.

Another meeting held at the
Ministry of Tourism and Anti-
quities Friday discussed the
production of a number of com-
memorative emblems for the
same occasion. The meeting
was attended by Director Gen-
eral of Tourism Ghaleb Abu
Jaber, a number of craftsmen
and people interested in this
art.

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BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN

The function organised by the Inner Wheel
Club for Tuesday, Feb. 22 at the British
Council has been cancelled.

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Enter the snake: Symbol of the Chinese Lunar New Year

"Exit the dragon, enter the snake": To traditionally-minded Chinese it is the "Lunar New Year" announcing itself with firecrackers to frighten off evil spirits and with lavish festivities and celebrations throughout Taiwan.

By Lina Grass

Special to the Jordan Times

Occurring on Feb. 18 this year, the Year of the Snake has slithered in to mark -- on the first day of the first moon -- the 4375th year on the Chinese lunar calendar. The Year of the Dragon has gone into limbo for 11 years before emerging for another one-year reign in the perpetual 12-year cycle of the Chinese Zodiac.

The Zodiac, composed of wild and domestic animals, covers 12 lunar years and, according to ancient belief, gives distinctive characteristics to people who are born under one of the following: Rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep,

monkey, chicken, dog, pig.

People born under the Year of the Snake are depicted as being secretive and usually distrustful. They are wise, deep, often vain, selfish and stingy, but nevertheless inclined to help the less fortunate.

These people prefer their own judgement to that of others, they are usually good-looking and passionate but liable to infidelity.

Their best marriage partners are people born in the years of the ox, the Rat and the Chicken; the next best are people born in the years of the Rabbit, the Dragon and the Sheep; but they are incompatible with people born in the years of the Tiger and the Pig.

Preparation Rituals

Preparations to celebrate the Lunar New Year begin in the Republic of China weeks before the event.

Among preparations is the annual ascent towards heaven of the "kitchen god" five or six days before the Lunar New Year. Legend has it that he returns to heaven at the end of each year to report on the family. It is the custom to make sure that he tells as little as possible or reports only good things.

His departure is symbolised by the burning of a picture of the god, but not before his lips have been daubed with melted candy so that they will be sealed during his heavenly stay. In this way, silence is ensured, or maybe only sweet words can emerge, and so a favourable report is given to the "Jade Emperor" of the family's doings.

Often wine is offered to intoxicate him and lead him into relaxed or even inaccurate reporting.

All expenses for the god's round-trip are borne by the family, which burns a generous amount of money to assure him a comfortable journey; fodder is even burnt for his horse.

The return of the god on new year's eve is symbolised by the family affixing a new drawing of him on the kitchen wall; but this does not take place until the house is spick and span in readiness for his return. A rich feast is laid on for the returning deity.

Among other preparations, businessmen close their accounts and thank the gods for a prosperous year. Even their customers join in by paying their debts and everyone is keen to start the new year with a clean slate.

Festivities Proceed

No Chinese festival is celebrated with more zest than the Lunar New Year, for it is the most colourful and important of Chinese festivals.

Family reunions are deeply cherished. All members of the



Colour print of the kitchen god. The top panel says "god of the kitchen." The panels on the right and left say that the kitchen god, being virtuous, can ensure that there is a fire in the stove; and that, being impartial, he will report the truth to heaven.

family dress in their best clothes for the occasion.

The children are especially happy, for they are given red envelopes containing crisp new banknotes. They spend the day playing games and eating sweets forbidden or not available during the rest of the year. As a special dispensation, they are allowed to stay up as late as they like.

The great day has a large assortment of do's and don'ts. Ancestors must be honoured; red scrolls inscribed with messages of happiness, prosperity and longevity are pasted on the walls; a basket of food must be placed in the centre of the living room to guarantee enough to eat in the coming year; and knives and scissors are put away, so that nobody will cut the continuity of luck for the year to come.

Food plays a very important role. Rich menus are regarded as a good omen for plenty of

food throughout the year. Ordinary dishes take on exotic names to denote hoped-for prosperity and good fortune: Eggs become "silver ingots", mushrooms are "opportunities" and a chicken is called "phoenix".

A special food associated with the 15th day of the first moon -- observed as the Lantern Festival -- is "yuan hsia", a small round dumpling made of glutinous rice with a sweet filling. The roundness of the "yuan hsia" signifies the full moon.

The Lunar New Year festivities come to an end with the Lantern Festival.

The lanterns used to be torches to help the people find the heavenly spirits they believed could be seen flying past in the light of the first full moon.

Today, the Lantern Festival has become a carnival with puppet shows, operas and dragon dancing in the streets.

For this festival, the "Dragon", the mythical creature traditionally symbolising Chinese royalty, appears as a fanciful creation of papier maché and painted cloth. It is manipulated by men concealed beneath the artificial scales. In some dances, the dragon chases a fiery pearl held out by another dancer, while in others the dragon frolics with a lion to the noisy clamour of gongs, drums and firecrackers. Such dances are held in city squares or along streets.

Festivities in Amman

On the morning of the first day of the Year of the Snake the Chinese community in Amman gathered in the Ret-ser engineering building for traditional celebrations.

The good omen for a prosperous year was a well-laden table with Chinese tea and exotic Chinese sweets. The spirit of the past also prevailed with a film honouring heroes in modern Chinese history.

The huds of happiness and optimism announced themselves at the tea-party through the Chinese character meaning "spring". If the character is put upside down, then spring is ar-

riving in green jade, the rich gem of Taiwan. Jordanian citizens also participated in celebrations: A "Chinese Folk Arts" film was shown

on Jordan Television.

The film depicts the five traditional Chinese arts, including the Chinese lanterns and the Lion Dance, which are most

closely associated with the New Year. Hopefully, Chinese will have its share of glory to the Jordanian people

INVITATION FOR TENDER NO. TCC 2/77 FOR THE JORDAN TELEX NETWORK

- The Telecommunications Corporation of Jordan invites the submission of tenders for the procurement, installation, testing and commissioning of equipment as a turn key project for the Jordan Telex Network. The equipment comprises of (1) an international electronic telex exchange in Amman and (2) twelve (12) time division multiplexers, six (6) in Amman, two (2) in Irbid, three (3) in Aqaba and one (1) in Zarqa, and (3) sixty six (66) voice frequency carrier telegraph (VFCT) channels, thirty six (36) in Amman, twenty four (24) in Irbid, four (4) in Madaba and two (2) in Jerash. Tenderers are kindly requested to offer for a three (3) items as an integrated turn key project as per the proposed plan in the specifications. Tenders shall include for the training of corporation staff in the operation and maintenance of the offered equipment. Tenderers shall make proposals for this training, that is, duration, number of staff, location etc.

- Agents can obtain the tender documents from the Telecommunications Corporation in Amman for a price of (J.D. 100) at the following address:

Secretary of Tender Committee
Telecommunications Corporation
Jabal Amman — Third Circle
P.O. Box 1689 — Telex: 1221
Cable: Jortel Amman
AMMAN — JORDAN

- The latest date of submission of proposals to the Telecommunications Corporation Headquarters in Amman is: 14:00 hours, Saturday 16th April 1977.

- The tender documents consists of the following materials:

- General conditions of contract.
- Specification CTE1 — General requirements applicable to all tenders.
- Specification CTE2 — Requirements for an electronic telex exchange in Amman, Jordan.
- Specification CTE3 — Requirements for voice frequency carrier telegraph (VFCT) equipment in Jordan.
- Specification CTE4 — Requirements for time division multiplex telegraph equipment in Jordan.

- All bidders will be required to deliver a bank guarantee of 5% of the bid as a bidding bond.

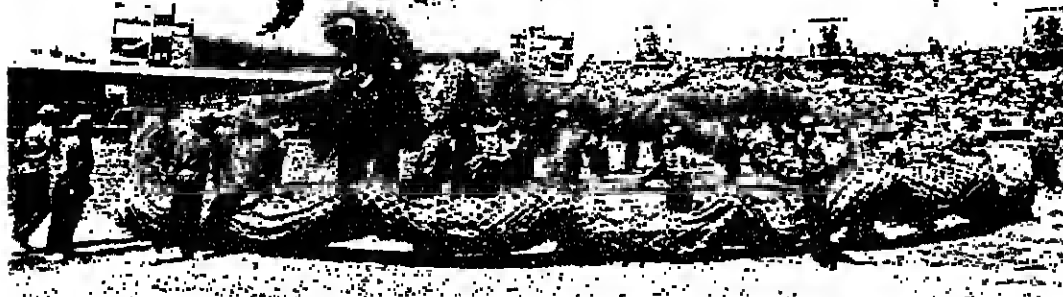
- Proposals should be submitted in three copies each in a closed envelope sealed with red wax and its cover labelled with the words: "Proposal for the Jordan Telex Network, Tender No. TCC 2/77". Original, 1st copy and 2nd copy.

- Any subsequent amendments will automatically be forwarded to purchasers of the tender documents.

Eng. MOH'D SHAHID ISMAIL
Director General
Telecommunications Corporation
Amman — Jordan



It looks terrifying, but this dragon mask is really quite harmless.



The dragon weaves its way through its ritualistic dance.

LEARN ARABIC AT THE HOUSE OF LANGUAGES

Near 2nd Circle — Phone 41986.

A class for beginners will be started in the House of Languages at 4:30 on Tuesday, Feb. 22nd.

Happy New Year

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هكذا صنع القمح

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

© 1977 by Chicago Tribune
Dear Mr. Goren:

We play that a two club response to a one no trump opening bid inquires about for suit holdings. We consider this to be forcing Stayman, since responder is expected to have at least 7-8 points for his bid. My question is: forcing to what level?

t. Garrett, Sao Antonio, Texas.

Q.—How would you play six spades on the following hand?

♠ 1054
♥ AK754
♦ 532
♣ A5

♠ Void ♣ J982
♥ J963 ♠ 1082
♦ J874 ♠ 6
♣ QJ1084 ♣ K9732
♠ AKQ763
♥ Q ♠ AKQ109
♦ 6

West led the queen of clubs. —D.B. Armstrong, Son Francisco, Calif.

A.—First, you are to be congratulated on getting no higher than six spades—I might easily have gotten to the grand slam, which stands on chance as the cards lie. Indeed, even six spades needs careful play.

Win the ace of clubs, ruff a club and cash the ace of spades. When this reveals the bad break, you must abandon the trump suit temporarily. Cash the queen of hearts and then play the ace and king of diamonds. If diamonds are 3-2, you concede a trump trick and claim the balance.

The 4-1 diamond break presents no problem because East cannot afford to ruff. If he does, he will be employed. Whatever he returns will allow you an entry to dummy to discard two diamonds on the top hearts, so all you will lose is the ruff. If East refuses to ruff, you continue with the queen of diamonds and then ruff a diamond. Whether or not East overruffs, again a trump will be the only trick for the defenders.

The key to the play is the far-sighted ruff of dummy's remaining club at trick two, which takes away East's only safe means of exit.

NORTH SOUTH
1NT 2♣
2♥ 3♦

NORTH SOUTH
1NT 2NT
2♥ 3♦

NORTH SOUTH
1NT 2♥
2♥ 3♦

On none of these auctions is North forced to bid again. For North to bid on, he must have better than a minimum no trump. All of these auctions are vital, and opener should allow if he has no more than 16 points he promised by his bid. Note that in example (c), North cannot have 10 or more points and bid in this way. With game-going hand, he would have simply jumped to three directly over one no trump and would not have gone through the rigmarole of wading out Stayman.

One other sequence should be discussed:

NORTH SOUTH
1NT 2♥
2♥ 3♦

Since South's rebid of two hearts is below the level to which Stayman response forced North must bid again. North's bid to three hearts shows a minimum no trump with three heart support, and South

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



SPICY -- German sausages -- all 1,500 varieties -- can be absolutely delicious. Some of the credit is due to the spices used -- mainly pepper, cloves and nutmeg from Indonesia and Malaysia. In the first six months of last year West Germany imported spices to the value of 17.3 million marks from the two countries. The Bonn government's farm aid programme likewise extends overseas, to West Sumatra, for instance, where planners hope to boost spice output and improve Indonesia's export record. The spice islands are certainly backing a winner; the demand for spices, which has been brisk ever since recorded trade began, continues to increase.

GRAFFITI

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MARRY AN
OLDER MAN:
AS YOUR
BEAUTY FADES
SO DOES
HIS EYESIGHT

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE

ENGLAND
Clayton
"The hut is quite cheap -- it's the ladder that's expensive."

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Proven experiences can be relied upon to handle conditions now occurring and help your advance in your line of endeavor. Be sure to make best use of your natural talents.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Not a good day to start any new projects. A new acquaintance could be acting strangely so keep aloof for the time being.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Stick to whatever has proven to be right and worthwhile in the past and use good judgment to advance in career matters.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Steer clear of an associate who could lead you into some kind of trouble today. Obtain the data you need from the right sources.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Contact a higher-up and gain the favor that means much to you. Take time to engage in favorite hobby.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Good day to do whatever will help you to advance in your career. Forget frivolity and concentrate on the practical for now.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have fine practical ideas now that should be put in operation without delay. Strive for more harmony at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Handle the duties you have assumed and get them behind you. Be sure to use extreme caution in motion today and tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Come to a complete understanding with associates. A new situation arises that brings benefits you had not counted on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Not a good day for making new plans but fine for handling regular routines. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Take care of a secret worry quickly or you find it can be very troublesome. Avoid one who does not understand you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Do some interesting entertaining of congenials today but stay within your budget. Show others you have wisdom.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get together with associates and make long-range plans for the future. Try to please friends more and get fine results.

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes

"How come when I have these symptoms it's a head cold, and when you have them it's the flu?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four Jumbles. Write the letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

SAUPE

CUSTO

PRACET

VERABE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: C U S T O P E R A B E S E

Answers tomorrow

Jumbles: VISTA MINCE BASKET NORMAL
Answer: How you might "break the news" to an intimate friend -- JUST "INTIMATE" IT

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

MOVIE OF THE WEEK:
THE LONG RIDE HOME

Cast: Glenn Ford, Inger Stevens, George Hamilton
Army Captain Bentley leads some of his men in an escape from Fort Hawkes, followed by Union army members before news arrive that the war is over.

SATURDAY VARIETY SHOW:
EUROPEAN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIP IN HELSINKI

A one hour colour demonstration of selections of various figure skating champions.

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22. Unity

23. Weak

24. Plunger

25. Hilarity

26. Holland

27. March elder

28. Church dignitary

29. Atom

30. Uncultured

31. Symbolizing

32. Numbers

33. Dark igneous rock

34. Writes

35. Silkworm

36. Pronoun

1. Mountain pass

2. Short aria

3. Foundation

4. River inlet

5. Legal proceedings

6. Intersection

7. Advice

8. Lily-like plant

9. Gold or bronze

10. Brick carriers

11. Sustained

12. Tin or zinc

13. Roman bronze

14. Eternal

15. Formerly

16. Extracts

17. After sixth

18. Surf

19. Feminine name

20. Butress

21. Mystery

22. Sir Anthony

23. Arabian chieftain

24. Lifetime

25. Tropical bird

26. Turn right

OUT AND ABOUT

THE CROWN ROTISSERIE

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THE DIPLOMAT

First Circle, Jabel Amman. Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

STAKEHOUSE

Firas Wings Hotel, Jabel Al Luweldah. Tel. 22103/4. Choice of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and a la carte. Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12 p.m.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38869. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

PEANUTS

ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU MR. PILOT... THAT WAS VERY INTERESTING!

THE FLINTSTONES

HEY, MAC! WOULD YA MIND OPENING YOUR MOUTH A SECOND?...

MUTT AND JEFF

MUTT, LET ME HAVE A TEN DOLLAR BILL FOR A MINUTE! WHY?

I'M READING SOMETHING HERE! WHAT?

GIMPELS IS HAVING A SALE ON WOMEN'S HATS! SO?

I'M A WOMAN!

Spanish Socialist Party gets full legal status

MADRID, Feb. 18, (Agencies). — The main Spanish Socialist Party, the Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE), was given full legal status today, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.

The party has been illegal since the end of the 1936-1939 civil war, though it has operated openly for the past year, holding a congress in Madrid last December, attended by European socialist leaders.

The PSOE, led by lawyer Felipe Gonzalez, formally applied for registration as a political party on Feb. 10 after rules for the legalisation of political parties were eased.

Under the new rules, the government has 10 days after a

party has applied in which to ask the Supreme Court to decide whether the party's aims conflict with Spanish law.

The ministry spokesman said six other parties had been inscribed on the registry together with the PSOE.

However no decision had been made about an application by the Communist Party, he said. The government has until next Monday to refer the case to the judiciary.

A spokesman for the small

Madrid radio station. He said no reason for the decision had been given.

Meanwhile, today the government met to consider a package of austerity measures to deal with the country's economic crisis.

In a separate development, police have arrested a suspected member of the GRAPO underground movement in connection with the discovery of explosives in a Madrid train station two weeks ago, reliable sources said here today.

The sources identified the man as Mr. Luis Alonso Riveiro and said he had been detained earlier this month, then released, in Galicia, northwestern Spain.

His detention for the second time, the sources said, was tied to the discovery on Feb. 4 of 28 kgs of explosives in a left-luggage locker at Chamartin Station here.

The explosives, according to the sources, were destined for GRAPO (Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups of Oct. 1).

GRAPO has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of two prominent Spanish figures, Mr. Antonio Maria de Oriol and Gen. Emilio Villacorta, as well as the killing of several policemen.

Mr. de Oriol, Chairman of the Council of State, and Gen. Villacorta, head of the Supreme Council of Military Justice, were freed in police raids last week.



IDI AMIN'S ENEMY — Lt. Col. Erenayo Wilson Uryema was one of three men reported killed in a car crash Thursday by Radio Uganda. The three, including the Anglican archbishop of Uganda and another government minister, had been accused of plotting against Ugandan President Idi Amin (AP wirephoto).

Bengal support for Indira Gandhi endangered by activities of son

NEW DELHI, Feb. 18, (Agencies). — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today carries her campaign for next month's general elections into volatile West Bengal State, where her ruling Congress Party is split for and against her on her son Mr. Sanjay Gandhi.

Bengali congressmen divide into supporters of Chief Minister Siddhartha Shankar Ray, 56, and those who follow Mr. Gandhi and his Youth Congress.

"I am against treating Mr. Gandhi as a VIP, as is being done in some states of India," said flambouyant Mr. Ray earlier this week in a reference to the rise to political influence of the prime minister's son, who is 30.

The prime minister has scheduled campaign meetings this weekend in villages and

towns in West Bengal and in the state capital Calcutta, a city of more than three million people.

Mr. Ray, a lawyer, recently survived several attempts to oust him as chief minister. Congress is fighting 34 of the 42 West Bengal seats, leaving the remainder to its electoral ally in the state, the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI).

The extent of the Congress split is shown by the fact that 12 Congress members will stand as independents against the official party candidates, while others will oppose the CPI.

The dissidents are being helped by the state Police Minister Tarun Kanti Ghosh, who says he is supported by Mr. Gandhi.

The Congress split could seriously damage its chances in West Bengal where it is chal-

lenged by united opposition groups. The main non-Congress party is the Janata Party, an ally of itself in West Bengal with von leftist parties, led by Marxist Communist Party (CPI-M).

Meanwhile the opposition Janata Party has been refused permission to post observers, the constituencies being contested by the prime minister and her son, it was learnt today.

Chief Election Commissioner T. Swaminathan was reported to have said in Bangalore yesterday that the Election Commission was sufficient to ensure "free and fair elections."

Eight members of parliament from the ruling Congress Party today issued a statement, accusing the Janata Party of using as a front for the ruling Hindu Jan Sangh organisation.

Italian students clash over government reforms

ROME, Feb. 18 (R). — Riot police last night used tear gas to clear hundreds of students from Rome University after a day of violent clashes left at least 20 people injured.

The police, who said they moved in at the request of university Rector Antonio Ruberti, reported no injuries and no arrests when they expelled the students from the campus, ending a 15-day occupation by extreme leftwingers protesting against proposed government reforms.

The injuries happened when Communists and extreme left wingers clashed earlier in the day.

Communist trade union leader Luciano Lama had gone to the university to appeal to students to return to their classes. Violence broke out and he was ushered out of the campus by a side entrance after being shouted down.

The extremists accused the Communists of selling out to the government.

Education Minister Franco Malfatti, whose proposed reforms have not been published in complete form, told colleges and universities last month that students would be restricted in their choice of subject and would only be allowed to take examinations once a year instead of three or four times as at present.

The Communist Party, which allows the minority Christian Democrat government to remain in power by abstaining in parliament, published its own plans for educational reforms last year.

Its proposals, although stating that the present examination system should remain, are largely similar to those expected to be put forward by Signor Malfatti.

PAKISTANI ELECTION CAMPAIGN TURNS VIOLENT

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 18, (R)

Three people were shot dead as Pakistan's general election campaign took a violent turn, newspapers reported today. The Urdu-language paper Nawa-i-Waqt said two workers of the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) were killed yesterday in a clash with supporters of an independent candidate in the town of Mandara, some 10 kms. south of the federal capital Islamabad.

Nawa-i-Waqt and another Urdu daily, Jang, reported that a relative of former Sind province Governor Mir Reas, Talpur was killed when his car was fired on near Hyderabad on Wednesday night.

The ex-governor, who resigned from the PPP last year, claimed in an interview with Nawa-i-Waqt that it was police who shot at the car.

The mountain town of Qatabah was the target of South Yemeni raids during the border fighting which erupted between the two countries in 1972 following a build-up of tension.

An Arab League mission mediated and was able to effect a ceasefire in October after the fighting had continued for a full month.

A peace agreement and an accord on eventual reunification of Yemen was signed in Cairo on Oct. 28, 1972.

But two months later it was apparent that although the two countries shared common religion, language and traditions, there were obstacles on the path towards union.

In May 1973 fighting again broke out between the two countries and relations continued to be tense during that year.

North Yemen, traditionally a conservative Moslem country, had always opposed the idea of union with the South Yemeni Marxist regime.

Observers in Amman said relations between the two countries began to improve after Saudi Arabia gave recognition to South Yemen last year.

The North-South Yemeni rapprochement, which came at a time when the region at the south end of the Red Sea, faces coming of independence for last foreign-run territory the Djibouti, the French enclave, the African shore opposite two Yemens.

Signs of improvement North-South Yemeni relations also appeared after the Asummi in Cairo last October. Presidents Ali Hamdi and were exhorted by the Arab leaders to forget their differences.

Before the meeting in Qatabah a joint delegation representing the two countries for the Gulf countries to a commissionary oil purchases. Commenting on the meeting of the two presidents, the official North Yemen daily newspaper Al Thawra said yesterday: "The two presidents have shown a sense of national possibility and a realization of the need to take genuine steps on the road to unity."

Sweden will forward plan for agreement to prohibit underground nuclear tests

GENEVA, Feb. 18 (R). — Sweden told the Geneva Disarmament Conference yesterday it was about to unveil a blueprint for a treaty banning underground nuclear tests.

Swedish delegate Mrs. Inga Thorsson said the Soviet Union and the United States appeared in recent statements to have taken a more positive attitude to a comprehensive test ban.

She called for immediate negotiations and said Sweden would present a preliminary text for a draft treaty to the conference of 30 Western, Communist and neutral nations in the very near future.

Nuclear tests in the atmosphere, outer space and under water are banned under an international agreement signed in 1963. But attempts to extend it to underground blasts have been defeated by Soviet-American differences over how to prevent cheating.

Mrs. Thorsson said she was encouraged by the Soviet Union's new willingness to discuss methods of one-site inspection of suspect underground distributions.

The Soviet Union previously resisted on-site inspection, claiming that long-range seismic graphs and other methods were sufficient to distinguish between natural earth tremors and small nuclear blasts.

Mrs. Thorsson said Sweden believed present seismic methods made adequate verification possible and hinted the Swedish draft treaty would contain provision only for voluntary site inspection.

TREASURE HOUSE
JABAL AMMAN — THIRD FLOOR
Wide variety of towels, bedlinens, blankets and Cannon bedcovers.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Saudi Arabia to check deals between foreign firms and their local agents

JEDDAH, Feb. 18, (R). — Saudi Arabia has set up a high-powered government committee to investigate the relationship between foreign companies doing business in the kingdom and their local agents.

The action, which reflects official anxiety that agents are seeking higher and higher profits, follows decisions by two ministries to cancel tenders for projects submitted by European, Japanese and American firms.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Sheikh last Sunday blacklisted firms which had padded their tenders for sewage and flood control projects in Taif, Dammam and Al Khobar, official sources said.

Industry Minister Dr. Ghazi Al Qusaiby, rejected bids for four electric power projects earlier this month, and warned the companies that their tenders were several times the ministry's estimates of the costs involved.

He threatened that if they did it again they would be debarred from future government tenders.

The level of the committee highlighted the government's concern about the size of commissions sometimes paid by foreign companies in Saudi Arabia.

It is headed by Prince Majid bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Municipal Affairs and a member of the powerful Royal Family Council, and includes Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Dr. Qusaiby, and the ministers of planning, finance and commerce.

In an interview with Reuters last year Dr. Qusaiby said the payment of kick-backs to agents by foreign companies resulted in very serious problems in Saudi Arabia, but it was difficult to prove or punish.

He added: "You don't have to pay anything to get a contract. I wish people would realize the best way to do business is to offer a good contract."

HONG KONG, Feb. 18 (R). — China has shown interest in settling a long-standing financial dispute with the United States, the Far Eastern Economic Review reported yesterday.

The dispute dates from the 1950-53 Korean war, when the two countries froze each other's assets.

The weekly news magazine said Chinese officials signalled interest in a settlement during a visit to Peking last month by Mr. David Rockefeller, Chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank.

Dr. Qusaiby went to Pakistan Wednesday at the start of an Asian tour to seek lower bids. He is going on to India, Taiwan and South Korea.

Business and diplomatic sources said the companies whose power contract tenders were refused included GEC Overseas, Balfour-Beatty and Hawker Siddley of Britain, Siemens of West Germany and IHI and Mitsubishi of Japan.

Company officials contacted in Saudi Arabia denied bids had been inflated and said that government estimates were low.

A foreign commercial attaché here said the firms based their estimates on inflation rates for the past two years and added about 50 per cent to their bids, allowing for another year or more of inflation before the project can start.

Company officials commented that the government was inviting tenders from the most experienced and the largest concerns and should consequently expect to have to pay more.

But Dr. Qusaiby said the bids submitted exceeded by several times the entire budget of his ministry.

lion blocked by Peking. Only two days earlier, official bullion figures released in London showed that China last December shipped over \$350 million worth of gold for sale on the bullion market there.

London banking sources said the exceptional size of the shipment could be the first sign of a new Chinese industrial drive.

Gold sales will provide China with hard currency that can be used in buying capital equipment and technology from the West.

China indicates wish to settle dispute over frozen U.S. assets

According to the report, Mr. Rockefeller was told a solution to the assets issue was no longer a problem.

"On his return to the United States Mr. Rockefeller reported his information to high-level officials in the Carter administration, who are now prepared to move forward with another round of negotiations," the review said.

This article said the dispute involved \$76.5 million in Chinese assets held in the U.S., and American corporate and private property valued at \$196.9 million.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (R). — A federal judge yesterday supported critics of offshore oil drilling and cancelled \$1.1 billion in exploration and drilling rights sold by the U.S. government in the Atlantic Ocean. The ruling was delivered by Judge Jack Weinstein in a case brought by Suffolk County, New York, and an environmentalist group, the Natural Resources Defense Council. The plaintiffs had argued that Ford Administration Interior Secretary Thomas Kleppe violated the National Environment Act when he authorised the sale of the leases last late summer.

ABAT, Feb. 18 (R). — Spain is to lend Morocco \$100 million to buy Spanish equipment under an agreement signed here yesterday. The two countries also concluded a fishing agreement for cooperation in shipbuilding, marketing fish products and shared fishing rights in their coastal waters. Under the accord, Spain will also provide credit facilities totalling about \$51 million to finance port construction in the Western Sahara and a naval training school.

GENEVA, Feb. 18 (R). — Mr. Knut Hammarskjöld, Director General of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), flew to London today to try to persuade the British government to drop plans for a "security tax" on travellers using British airports, an IATA spokesman said. IATA officials said they understood the British government planned to make travellers using its airports pay a tax, in addition to their air fare, to meet the cost of airport security.

ANTANANARIVO, Feb. 18 (R). — The Malagasy Republic and Libya have signed agreements providing for a Libyan grant of \$1 million in social aid and a loan of \$3 million, according to a communiqué released here yesterday. Malagasy Finance Minister Rakotonjato Razakabola and Libyan Minister for Agricultural Development Abdul Majid Daoud also signed a cultural cooperation agreement, it added.

BERLIN, Feb. 18 (AFP). — The Soviet Union has warned the Western allies that it will regard direct flights planned by Pan American Airways from West Berlin to Zurich, Switzerland, as illegal, the East German news agency ADN reported today. It quoted diplomatic sources in East Berlin as saying an official from the Soviet Embassy handed a message to a representative of the three Western allies — the United States, Britain and France — saying the Soviet Union could not guarantee the safety of airliners using the route.

USSR officially rejects U.S. statements on human rights

MOSCOW, Feb. 18 (R). — The Soviet Union has officially told the United States that Washington's recent statements on human rights in this country would not help relations between the two countries, Tass news agency reported today.

It said the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Anatoly Dobrynin, told the State Department yesterday his country resolutely rejected attempts to interfere in its internal affairs under the pretext of defending human rights.

The Soviet move came on the same day as the U.S. Embassy here delivered a letter from President Jimmy Carter to Dr. Andrei Sakharov, the Kremlin's most outspoken domestic critic.

Tass said Mr. Dobrynin met the Acting Secretary of State, Mr. Arthur Hartman, and drew his attention to "certain statements and actions of the American side that are not consistent with the aims of a positive development of Soviet-American relations."

It was not clear from the report whether the meeting took place before or after Mr. Carter's letter reached Dr. Sakharov, and Tass did not spell out which U.S. statements and actions it meant.

Soviet commentators have already condemned as interference the State Department's expressions of support for arrested Soviet dissidents, and observers said the decision to issue the strongly-worded Tass report was almost certainly intended as a response to Mr. Carter as well.

President Carter had openly risked angering the Soviet leadership by sending the message of encouragement to Dr. Andrei Sakharov.

His unprecedented gesture has boosted the morale of the Nobel Peace laureate, and his fellow dissidents after a crackdown on their activities by the authorities.

Dr. Sakharov, clearly delighted with the letter, told Western correspondents last night that he saw the president's decision to write to him directly as "an expression of support for the human rights movement in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe."

AMMAN, Feb. 18 (R). — A meeting this week between the North and South Yemeni presidents marks a turn for the better in relations between the two southern Arabian neighbours.

President Ibrahim Ali Hamdi of North Yemen and South Yemen's head of state Salem Robaye' Ali met on Tuesday just inside North Yemen at Qatabah to discuss inter-Yemeni interests and how best to reunite their countries, according to reports reaching here from Sana'a.

The two countries were one land until Britain established colonial power in Aden in 1839. Tuesday's encounter was the first time the two presidents have met on Yemeni soil since Lieut. Col. Ali Hamdi, disillusioned with the former three-man Republican Council, took power in June 1974.

PARIS, Feb. 18 (R). — French Socialist leader Francois Mitterrand has accepted an invitation by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to attend the ruling Labour Party's congress in Tel Aviv next week. The Rabin Daily Mail said about 100 blacks were believed to have been arrested and large quantities of explosives, hand grenades and Soviet-made weapons seized. Full details were being kept secret and major trials were expected which would provide "startling evidence about a major offensive that was about to be launched in South Africa," the paper said.

PRETORIA, Feb. 18 (R). — A South African newspaper said today security police had arrested a number of blacks enabling them to break up "various African national congress terror groups." The Rand Daily Mail said about 100 blacks were believed to have been arrested and large quantities of explosives, hand grenades and Soviet-made weapons seized. Full details were being kept secret and major trials were expected which would provide "startling evidence about a major offensive that was about to be launched in South Africa," the paper said.

SALISBURY, Feb. 18 (AFP). — Hundreds of Rhodesians of all races today responded to President John Vorster's call to observe a day of prayer and fasting for peace in the country. Congregations, mostly whites, packed city churches for special services, although in city bars and restaurants at midday when the services were being held it was business as usual. Premier Ian Smith and Deputy Prime Minister Davis Smith and their wives attended a service at the Presbyterian Church in the city centre.

MUWAIT, Feb. 18 (R). — A new English-language weekly newspaper, the Arab Times appeared for the first time here today. It is published by Mr. Ahmad Jarallah, publisher of the Arabic-language daily Al-Siyassah, who last year bought the English-language Daily News shortly after it ceased publication. Kuwait already has one English-language daily, The Kuwait Times, and five Arab dailies.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (AFP). — Seventeen Arab teenagers went on trial in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron today on charges of "desecrating" the Patriarch's Tomb there. The 17 will be the first to be tried by a military tribunal on the desecration charges, for which a total of 52 persons have been indicted. The trial will be held in coming months. Reports at the time said Arabs damaged the tomb's Jewish precinct in retaliation for desecration the previous day of Moslem prayer books at the tomb, by Jews from the Kiryat Arba' sector of Hebron.

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WALL STREET REPORT

Prices finished with a moderate decline Friday on the New York stock exchange, where the industrial average lost more than 3 points in sluggish trading, the volume hitting a 1977 low. The Commerce Department announced that the consumer price index had climbed 0.8 per cent in January, which doubtless led to the decline.

Declines outnumbered advances at the bell by a 796 to 564 margin as most groups of shares closed on a mixed to lower tone. At the close, the industrial average shows at 940.24, a loss of 3.49 points; Transp at 224.92, a loss of 0.29; utilities at 106.69, a loss of 0.13. 18,000,000 shares changed hands.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed narrowly mixed Friday after a quiet session and at 1500 the F.T. index was up 2.6 at 393.0.

Early small gains were pared after the January retail price index which showed a 2.6 pct rise compared with December. This factor was slightly offset in government bonds by the fall in the treasury bill tender rate to 10.9264 from 11.1696 pct, dealers said.

Short-dated government bonds met light two-day interest. Longs showed little change. Equity leaders were mixed and golds saw very little interest.

The banking sector lost up to 5p after results from Lloyds, whose profits were around the bottom end of expectations and may set the pattern for the other three clearing banks, dealers said.

Lloyds itself finished 3p down having risen 2p at the outset. Oils were relatively active but finished mixed. B.P. was 2p down after showing a 6p gain. Shell added 2p while Ultramar was 5p higher.

Decca finished 8p up while rises of 2p to 4p were scored by most other leaders. Beecham was 2p easier. There was speculative demand for Rank Organisation which ended 6p up at 182 after 187p.

Price of gold closed in London Friday at 136.25

مركز الصحافة